

### Amendments to the Specification

On page 1 of the specification, between the title and the heading TECHNICAL FIELD insert the following heading and paragraph:

### RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a U.S. national phase application filed under 35 U.S.C. §371 of International Application No. PCT/JP2003/03568 filed March 25, 2003, which claims priority of Japanese Application No. 2002-86974 filed March 26, 2002.

Please replace the single paragraph of the Abstract on page 46 with the following amended paragraph:

~~The present invention provides a~~ A process is disclosed for preparing a heterocyclic aldehyde by oxidizing a heterocyclic alcohol with high selectivity and high yield. Specifically, the heterocyclic aldehyde is prepared by reacting a heterocyclic compound having at least one hydroxymethyl group bonded to a carbon atom of a heterocyclic ring with a hypohalogenous acid salt in the presence of a base to oxidize the hydroxymethyl group, wherein reaction is conducted in the co-presence of a 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl derivative having at least two 2,2,6,6-tetramethylpiperidine-1-oxyl-4-yl groups.